Susan Odekirk - Carbon Canal Company - Bob Davis

From: "Nick Sampinos" <nsampinos@emerytelcom.net>
To: <susanodekirk@utah.gov>, <marcstilson@utah.gov>
Date: 09/11/2010 12:00 PM
Subject: Carbon Canal Company - Bob Davis

Marc and Susan:

As a follow-up to the meeting in Price on September 9, 2010 we thank you for your involvement and your input. We feel strongly that the meeting was beneficial and productive.

Regarding the issue of maintaining constant flow into the Carbon Canal, we concur with your suggestion of automating the side release gate at the diversion structure. We discussed that concept further and believe that this alternative would be easier and much less expensive than attempting to install a gate at or near the flume on Garley Wash. It is our belief that we can simply remove the old side gate and install a new one. We will work toward accomplishing this task by next spring.

As we discussed, we would like to automate this gate. In that regard, we will contact you as to your suggestions for implementation of automation equipment.

With regard to the issue of releases and reductions in the flow of reservoir water from Scofield Reservoir, we do believe that our discussion was helpful. Our concerns, as you detected, remain as follows:

1. That the Carbon Canal Company not be penalized for the fluctuations associated with floods or the actions of other users, that may occur on a daily basis; and
2. That the amount of reservoir water being charged to the Carbon Canal Company reflects proper deductions for those fluctuations that are beyond our control.

In reviewing the report made by Bob for the period of August 28 through September 5, it is evident that Bob has taken the fluctuation issue into serious consideration in making his calculations. We appreciate his efforts in that regard and remain hopeful that this method of calculation and the credit he is allowing for direct flow will continue.

Our second point of concern, which was only briefly touched upon during out meeting, is the timely response to our requests for increases or decreases in water releases from Scofield Reservoir. On an as needed basis, the Company's water master (Jerry Pollock) calls Bob by phone to increase or decrease the flow in accordance with the needs of the irrigators. Shortly thereafter, that day's water order is confirmed via e-mail to Bob. Since implementation of that follow-up procedure (August, 2010), the requested increases or decreases are being accomplished in a more timely fashion. Our tracking of the flows reflects a response time of approximately 12 hours. In other words, following the placement of an order by the water master, we are seeing the resulting increase or decrease approximately 12-15 hours later. Considering Bob's daily schedule, distance of travel, length of the river, etc., this response time is reasonable. Needless to say, we remain hopeful that automation of the release works at the dam will someday soon occur so that response time can be further minimized. We see no legitimate basis for not implementing automation. Unfortunately, the mere suggestion of this change in technology to Bob, in his capacity as "dam tender" and to his other employer, the Carbon Water Conservancy District, has been met with vigorous opposition.

Lastly, we wanted to address the discussion regarding the Canal Company's desire to have a measuring device below the reservoir. As you heard, the Board is desirous of having a measuring device installed. Bob is obviously opposed to that idea and we seriously question the validity of his reasoning. It is our belief that Bob's opposition is a result of his function as the "dam tender" under the employ of the Carbon Water Conservancy District. Currently, Bob is the only person who has access into the release works and is the only person who really knows the approximate amount of water that is being released at any given time. Our Board does not believe that this situation is fair to the actual owners/users of the water. It is our firm belief that installation of a Parschal flume equipped with a datalogger would accomplish several things, as follows:

1. The discharge of water from the reservoir would then be accurately measured at all times; and
2. Those needing to know would always be able to see firsthand the amount of water being discharged from the reservoir. This is not only critical during the irrigation season but also during the off-season. It is our belief that care should also be taken to avoid unnecessary releases of water during the winter/spring months. As we believe you are aware, the Carbon Canal Company and the BOR worked together to dry up the Carbon Canal during the months of November 1 through March 31. This was done in the name of salinity control and resulted in the implementation of a piped clean water stock watering program for Carbon Canal Company shareholders. As a result of that program, water that would have otherwise flowed down the river and into the Canal during the winter months should end up being stored in the reservoir. We want to make sure that this is what truly happens and also to avoid any unnecessary release of water from the reservoir during the off-season. Downstream use by Price City, the Price River Water Improvement District and the Carbon Power Plant is minimal during those months (less than 4 or 5 cfs). It has been our observation that at times the water level in the river has been quite high even though the reported amount being released from the reservoir was minimal (5 cfs or less).

With regard to a measuring device, we would appreciate further discussion with you in the future. In the meantime, we request your assistance in monitoring the amount of water being released during the off-season. The entire system will benefit by avoiding a waste of water.

Again, thank you and we look forward to meeting with you again.

Sincerely,

Carbon Canal Company Board of Directors